



The Old Ironsides Report

Thursday, May 13, 2004



After many deployments, 'Mess daddy' is looking toward home

By: Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- An Army cook's day starts before daybreak and often ends after the sun goes back down.

It's not typically tagged as a "glamour job," but Staff Sgt. William Hughes understands that someone has to do it, especially in places like Iraq.

Food service has always been a part of life for the senior food operations noncommissioned officer of Task Force 1st Armored Division's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

"I've been working in restaurants since I was 13," said Hughes.

This "mess daddy's" military journey began in February 1984.

"I managed a Steak and Ale in Atlanta," said Hughes, an Atlanta native. "I asked my boss when I would receive another promotion. He said, 'when I retire and you take my spot.'"

When asked when that time would come, the former employer replied "When you're 30."

That's when Hughes decided to look for a different boss.

The aspiring chef joined the Army to "see the world at someone else's expense." And, he has.

In his 20 years of service, Hughes got married, had two kids, earned a bachelor's degree in food service management, a master's degree in business management and has seen 11 deployments which include a number of combat tours.

His first assignment was with 3rd Bn., 59th Air Defense Artillery Regiment – a Hawk Missile unit in Baumholder, Germany.

While with 3-59 ADA, Hughes, whose dream is to manage a hotel, was named the 1987 U.S. Army Europe cook of the year.

He was awarded a classroom slot at a German culinary school in Frankfurt.

Most of his classmates were Germans who had a way of discouraging foreigners. But once he made it through the three-month class, he was accepted as one of their own and as an equal.

And, he did have a rough time with his instructor.

"He was an ornery guy," Hughes recalled. "Let's just say I stayed on soups and sauces for a long time."

During his tenure in Baumholder, Hughes deployed to the former Czechoslovakia – the first of his many deployments.

His next assignment was Korea, from where he deployed to Thailand, Burma and Laos for Operation Cobra Gold.

After Korea, he returned to Germany – Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 32nd Support Command in Worms.

While assigned to 32nd SUPCOM he deployed to Panama for Operation Just Cause, but not with his unit.

"I was on leave in Atlanta when the (news ticker) came across the screen on the TV for all service members to report to the nearest military installation," Hughes said.

He reported to Fort McPherson, Ga. Shortly afterward, he was in a hangar at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

"They gave us our shots and sewed our jungle fatigues right there," he said.

But it wasn't until his aircraft was off the ground that Hughes found out where he was headed. After the plane landed, he was handed a parachute and put on a helicopter.

Hughes, who has never attended the Army's basic airborne



Staff Sgt. William Hughes, the senior food operations noncommissioned officer with 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, stands outside of his military kitchen trailer at a base camp near An Najaf, Iraq.

course, didn't know what was going on.

"I was just a dumb cook. I thought it was just for safety," he said.

The next thing he knew, he was "thrown" out of the helicopter in to lands unknown.

He spent 37 days in Panama. The new "airborne cook" with one jump under his belt and combat jump wings on his chest returned to Germany. His unit had written him off as absent without leave – AWOL.

"They thought I was still goofing around on leave," Hughes said.

His other deployments include: Egypt, Kuwait, Bosnia; Kosovo and now Iraq.

With the division's extension in Iraq, Hughes and his experienced crew are leading the way for a new group of cooks.

"My guys have been through (the Iraqi summer) already, so they're working pretty smooth," Hughes said. "We know what to expect and what the soldiers will need when it starts hitting (heat category 5.)"

This is hopefully the last deployment for Hughes as he winds down the few months of remaining in the Army. It is time, he said, to settle down with his family and act on his life-long dream of managing a hotel.

"I'm just an old 'mess daddy' trying to retire," said Hughes. "My wife has been playing the mommy-daddy role for the last 10 years."

Hughes already has a job waiting for him at the Grand Casino Hotel in Biloxi, Miss.

"All I have to do is show up for work," he said.



DIWANIYA, IRAQ – The tankers of Battle Co., 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, pull security while their patrol pauses by the side of the road in the southern Iraqi city. Battle Co. is part of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, "Wolfpack," attached to Task Force 1st Armor Division. Photo by Pfc. Erik LeDrew.

NEWS...

U.S. Soldiers Battle Al-Sadr Supporters

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) - U.S. soldiers backed by tanks and helicopters battled fighters loyal to a radical cleric near a mosque in this holy city Wednesday, hours after Iraqi leaders agreed on a proposal that would end his standoff with the U.S.-led forces. As many as 25 insurgents were killed. The cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, urged fighters in Karbala to resist U.S. troops, comparing their struggle to the Vietnam War.

U.S.: Berg Had Been Advised to Leave Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - An American civilian who was beheaded in a grisly video posted on an al-Qaida-linked Web site had been warned to leave Iraq but refused, U.S. officials said Wednesday. The masked men who butchered him claimed they were angered by coalition abuses of Iraqi prisoners. Nick Berg, 26, of West Chester, Pa., was never under U.S. custody despite claims from his family.

Two More Americans Charged in Abuse Case

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Two more U.S. soldiers have been ordered to stand trial in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal although no date for the courts-martial was set, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt announced. Sgt. Javal Davis, 26, of Maryland and Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick II of Buckingham, Va., were ordered to undergo a general court-martial. The trial date and venue have not been set.

Kerry Names Replacements for Rumsfeld

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Wednesday any number of people, including Republican Sens. John McCain and John Warner, could replace Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, rejecting concerns that a change in Pentagon leadership could hurt the war effort. "If America has reached a point where only one person has the ability in our great democracy to manage the Pentagon and to continue or to put in place a better policy even, we're in deeper trouble than you think," Kerry said.

Of beer and babies...

Australia Offering to Pay New Parents

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) -- Facing a falling birth rate, the Australian government has a simple message: Go forth and multiply. And they're prepared to pay new parents who take up the call.

"Come on, come on, your nation needs you," Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday, when asked about a one-off 3,000 Australian dollar (US \$2,100) payment for all new mothers announced by Treasurer Peter Costello in the annual budget.

On Tuesday night, a smiling Costello urged reporters in Canberra: "You go home and do your patriotic duty tonight."

The father of three suggested that two children per couple wasn't quite enough to combat the effects of an aging population and declining birth rate in this sparsely populated nation of 20 million.

"If you can have children it's a good thing to do. You should have ... one for your husband, one for your wife, and one for your country," Costello said.

Tampa Bay Lightning May Offer Free Beer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- The Tampa Bay Lightning is hoping to tap into larger crowds by offering unlimited free beer to season ticket holders.

But the sudsy sale may not reach its goal if safe-driving advocates have their way.

Police and several area chapters of Mothers Against Drunk Driving say the hockey team's offer is irresponsible.

"Why attach alcohol to a season-ticket plan? It's almost encouraging people to drink more than they should because it is free," said Sgt. Chris Velar, who runs the Police Department's drunken driving squad.

During the first Eastern Conference playoff game between the Lightning and the Philadelphia Flyers Saturday, the St. Pete Times Forum's main scoreboard advertised the offer. Those who paid \$100 toward 2004-05 season tickets were eligible for unlimited free beer during the game.

About 25 of the 21,000 people at the game signed up for season tickets, said team spokesman Bill Wickett.

People who are already intoxicated aren't served beer and free taxi rides are provided to patrons who believe they have had too much to drink, Wickett said.

Thought for the day... Marriage Advice

A grandmother, celebrating her golden wedding anniversary, once told the secret of her long and happy marriage.

"On my wedding day, I decided to make a list of ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of our marriage, I would overlook," she said.

A guest asked the woman what some of the faults she had chosen to overlook were.

The grandmother replied, "To tell you the truth, my dear, I never did get around to listing them. But whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, *Lucky for him that's one of the ten!*"

Today in history...

May 13, 1981: POPE JOHN PAUL II SHOT

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- Near the start of his weekly general audience in Rome's St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul II is shot and seriously wounded while passing through the square in an open car. The assailant, 23-year-old escaped Turkish murderer Mehmet Ali Agca, fired four shots, one of which hit the pontiff in the abdomen, narrowly missing vital organs, and another that hit the pope's left hand. A third bullet struck 60-year-old American Ann Odre in the chest, seriously wounding her, and the fourth hit 21-year-old Jamaican Rose Hill in the arm. Agca's weapon was knocked out of his hand by bystanders, and he was detained until his arrest by police. The pope was rushed by ambulance to Rome's Gemelli Hospital, where he underwent more than five hours of surgery and was listed in critical but stable condition.

John Paul II, the spiritual leader of almost 600 million Roman Catholics around the world, was invested in 1978 as the first Polish pope and the first non-Italian pope in 456 years. Fluent in seven modern languages and Latin, he was known as an avid traveler who had little fear of going out in public. Four days after being shot, he offered forgiveness to his would-be assassin from his hospital bed. The pontiff spent three weeks in the hospital before being released fully recovered from his wounds.

The motives of Mehmet Ali Agca in attempting to kill the head of the Roman Catholic Church were enigmatic, and remain so today. In the 1970s, Agca joined a right-wing Turkish terrorist group known as the Gray Wolves. The group is held responsible for the assassination of hundreds of public officials, labor organizers, journalists, and left-wing activists as part of their mission to cleanse Turkey of leftist influence. In recent years, it has been revealed that the Gray Wolves had close ties with far-right politicians, intelligence officers, and police commanders. In February 1979, Abdi Ipekci, a liberal newspaper editor, was murdered near his home in Istanbul. Mehmet Ali Agca was arrested and charged with the crime. While awaiting his trial, Agca escaped from a military prison in November 1979.

In his cell, he left behind a letter that concerned John Paul II's planned trip to Turkey. The letter read: "Western imperialists who are afraid of Turkey's unity of political, military, and economic power with the brotherly Islamic countries are sending the Crusader Commander John Paul under the mask of a religious leader. If this ill-timed and meaningless visit is not called off, I will definitely shoot the pope. This is the only reason that I escaped from prison." Because of this threat, security was tightened during the pope's Turkish visit, and there was no assassination attempt. A Turkish court convicted Agca of murder in absentia, and he remained at large.

On May 9, 1981, Agca took a plane from Majorca to Milan and entered Italy under an assumed name. He took a room in a hotel near the Vatican and on May 13 walked into St. Peter's Square and shot the pope with a 9mm Browning automatic. A handwritten note was found in his pocket that read: "I am killing the pope as a protest against the imperialism of the Soviet Union and the United States and against the genocide that is being carried out in Salvador and Afghanistan." He pleaded guilty, saying he acted alone, and in July 1981 was sentenced to life in prison.

In 1982, Agca announced that his assassination attempt was actually part of a conspiracy involving the Bulgarian intelligence services, which was known to act on behalf of the KGB. Pope John Paul II was a fervent anti-communist who supported the Solidarity trade union in his native Poland, which seemed to make him an appropriate target for the communists. In 1983, despite these developments, the pope met with Mehmet in prison and offered him forgiveness. Further interrogations of Agca led to the arrest of three Bulgarians and three Turks, who went on trial in 1985.

As the trial opened, the case against the Bulgarian and Turkish defendants collapsed when Agca, the state's key witness, described himself as Jesus Christ and predicted the imminent end of the world. He explained that the Bulgarian scenario was concocted by Western intelligence officials, and that God had in fact led him to shoot John Paul II. The attack, he explained, was "tied to the Third Secret of the Madonna of Fatima." The secrets of Fatima were three messages that Catholic tradition says the Virgin Mary imparted to three Portuguese shepherd children in an apparition in 1917. The first message allegedly predicted World War II, the second the rise (and fall) of the Soviet Union, and the third was still a Vatican secret in 1985. In 1986, the Bulgarian and Turkish defendants were acquitted for lack of evidence.

In the late 1990s, Pope John Paul II expressed his hope that the Italian government would pardon Mehmet in 2000. The pontiff had made 2000 a holy "Jubilee" year, of which forgiveness was to be a cornerstone. On May 13, 2000, the 19th anniversary of the attempt on his life, the pope visited Fatima, Portugal. The same day, the Third Secret of Fatima was announced by Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Sodano. Sodano described the secret as a "prophetic vision" in which "a bishop clothed in white...falls to the ground, apparently dead, under a burst of gunfire." The Vatican interpreted this as a prediction of the attempt on John Paul II's life. Mehmet Ali Agca, who had guessed the alleged Fatima-assassination connection in 1985, was pardoned by Italian President Carlo Ciampi on June 14, 2000. Extradited to Turkey, he began serving the eight years remaining on the sentence for his 1979 murder of the Turkish newspaper editor.

Legal Services Return

Legal Assistance is once again available for soldiers on the Baghdad International Airport, although the location has changed. Soldiers are advised to review their Powers of Attorney - they may be nearing their expiration date. Individual soldiers in need of a power of attorney, a will, basic legal advice, or just a listening ear, should stop by the Legal Support Center located on the 2nd floor of "Hotel California." Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week.

If more practical, units may request a dedicated "JAG day" and have Legal Assistance visit the unit itself.

Additionally, if you have had to cancel your travel plans as a result of 1AD's extension, Legal Assistance is initiating a campaign to try and help soldiers obtain refunds. For further information, please contact SPC Redulla, SGT Matsudo, or CPT Dohn at 551-0694.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2004				As of: Wednesday, May 12, 2004 8:20:02 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - GULF WAR: STEEL RAIN	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		0:00
0:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	0:30
1:00	SPORTSCENTER		MR. NICE GUY	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	1:00
1:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				1:30
2:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	2:00
2:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	2:30
3:00	NBA SHOOTAROUND	MLB - ATLANTA BRAVES @ ST. LOUIS CARDINALS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - YOU AINT SEEN NOTHING, YET!	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	3:00
3:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HALL MONITOR/ JELLYFISH JAM		CBS EVENING NEWS	3:30
4:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 4: INDIANA PACERS @ MIAMI HEAT		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LAST EXIT TO SPRINGFIELD	PLAY WITH ME SESAME	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - WATERWORKS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			DHARMA & GREG (TV14): - JUDY AND GREG	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	5:00
5:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - MICHAEL'S GARDEN			5:30
6:00		ESPNEWS	WEST WING, THE (TVPG): - THE RED MASS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	6:00
6:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 4: MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES @ SACRAMENTO KINGS	ESPNEWS				6:30
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	BECOMING AMERICANS: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE (TVPG): - PART 2	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	7:00
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	7:30
8:00		HEADLINE NEWS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SUNRISE OVER TIANANMEN SQUARE			8:30
9:00	SPORTSCENTER	SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - WHITE TEETH (PT. 1)		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	PLAY WITH ME SESAME		DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE LIVING LEGEND	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - HELGA'S SHOW/ THE FLOOD		10:30
11:00	MLB - CHICAGO CUBS @ LOS ANGELES DODGERS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - YOU AINT SEEN NOTHING, YET!	YU-GI-OH! (TVY): - THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HALL MONITOR/ JELLYFISH JAM	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - THE LOTUS TEMPLE	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LAST EXIT TO SPRINGFIELD	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - WATERWORKS	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	ESPNEWS	60 MINUTES II	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	WEST WING, THE (TVPG): - THE RED MASS	EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - FUN WITH DEBRA	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:25				SCRUBS (TV14): - MY ADVICE TO YOU		14:25
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
14:50				REEL TIME		14:50
15:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 4: MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES @ SACRAMENTO KINGS	TODAY	BECOMING AMERICANS: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE (TVPG): - PART 2	THE BACHELOR (TV14):	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00				E.R. (TVPG): - NICU		16:00
16:30			SUNRISE OVER TIANANMEN SQUARE			16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE LIVING LEGEND	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - WHITE TEETH (PT. 1)	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - HELGA'S SHOW/ THE FLOOD		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	YU-GI-OH! (TVY): - THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - THE LOTUS TEMPLE		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - YOU AINT SEEN NOTHING, YET!			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HALL MONITOR/ JELLYFISH JAM	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	NBA FASTBREAK	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LAST EXIT TO SPRINGFIELD	THE LATE SHIFT	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - WATERWORKS			20:30
21:00	MLB - ANAHEIM ANGELS @ NY YANKEES	EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - FUN WITH DEBRA	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		SCRUBS (TV14): - MY ADVICE TO YOU				21:25
21:45				HE SAID, SHE SAID		21:45
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00		THE BACHELOR (TV14):	WEST WING, THE (TVPG): - THE RED MASS		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		E.R. (TVPG): - NICU	BECOMING AMERICANS: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE (TVPG): - PART 2		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS	23:30